

Saegertown Industrial Area

EPA Region 3

Pennsylvania

Crawford County

Saegertown

EPA ID# PAD980692487

3rd Congressional District

Last Update: August 2002

Other Names:

Saegertown Borough

Saegertown Well #2

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a Proposed Plan for public comment to amend the Record of Decision (ROD). The modified remedy proposes enhanced biodegradation of the groundwater, operation and maintenance of the residential well treatment unit and institutional controls as an alternative to the pump and treat and vacuum extraction remedy originally selected. Cleanup of this remaining operable unit is being performed by the Responsible Party, the Lord Corporation.

Site Description

The Saegertown Industrial Area site is located in Saegertown, Crawford County, Pennsylvania (21st Congressional District). The site covers about 100 acres that contain several industrial operations. In 1980 state analysts discovered volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Saegertown Municipal Water Authority's Well #2. Several potential

sources of VOCs were identified in the industrial area east of the well. GATX cleaned and repaired railroad tank cars on the site from the mid-1950s to 1965, disposing of wash water, solvents, sludge, and tanker waste on site. EPA tests in 1984 found VOCs and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in on-site pond sediments and soil. The Lord Corporation produced adhesives, urethane coatings, and "rubber chemicals" on the site. Lord manufacturing processes use various VOCs. Saegertown Manufacturing Co. has produced small steel components in the area since 1965. In 1981, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania detected VOC products in the company's septic tank and on-site wells. Starting in 1974, Spectrum Control, Inc. manufactured ceramic capacitors at its location, using VOCs in the cleaning process. VOCs also were found in on-site monitoring wells. Approximately 1,200 people draw drinking water from municipal wells and a private well within three miles of the site. There are approximately 3,400 people living within a three-mile radius of the site, and 1,100 people live within a 1-mile radius. The municipal well was removed from service in 1980, but was put back into use again in 1984 because the contamination levels fell below the levels of health concern.

Site Responsibility

This site is being addressed through federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

NPL Listing History

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List. The site was proposed to the list on June 24, 1988 and formally added to the list on February 21, 1990.

Threats and Contaminants

Soil, sludge and pond sediments on the former GATX property were contaminated with VOCs and PAHs. Possible health threats included accidentally ingesting or coming into direct contact with the contaminated soils, sludge, and sediments. In 1980, a fence was erected around the on-site pond where VOCs and PAHs were detected. The pond and contaminated soil on the former GATX property represented a risk to trespassers, on-site workers, and off-site residents. The groundwater under the Lord Corporation property

was found to be contaminated with VOCs such as those used by Lord in their manufacturing processes. A leaking tank in a sump area was identified as the probable source of VOCs in the groundwater. An unacceptable level of risk is presented by the ingestion and inhalation of, and dermal contact with, the groundwater.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

In January 1993, EPA signed a ROD for the site selecting a remedial action for the Lord Corporation groundwater and former General American Transportation Corporation (GATX) property sludge and soil contamination. The ROD determined no action was warranted for two adjacent properties at the site. The site was addressed as two separate operable units. EPA signed separate Consent Orders with Lord, in September 1993, and GATX, in August 1994, for the cleanup of their current and former properties, respectively, at the site.

In March of 1995 and 1996, EPA modified the former GATX property remedy to allow off-site (in lieu of on-site) incineration or alternative thermal treatment and resource recovery. Off-site disposal of the contaminated sludge and soil began in the summer of 1995 and was completed in the fall of 1996. Over 32,000 tons of soil and sludge was excavated and removed from the former GATX property for off-site thermal treatment and resource recovery. The property was backfilled with clean soil, graded back to pre-existing contours, and seeded. The remedial action for the cleanup of the former GATX property has been completed. In October 1997 the former GATX property, as well as the two properties where no action was selected by the ROD, were deleted from the site and the National Priority List (NPL).

Lord removed contaminated soil from source areas in 1991 and again in 1996. Lord has completed the Pre-Design study to evaluate the hydrogeology. This new information formed the basis for the request to modify the ROD. EPA released the Proposed Plan on August 27, 2002 and will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed changes on September 19, 2002 at 7 p.m. at the Saegertown Borough Building.

EPA is also in the process of preparing the second Five-Year review of the entire site.

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

Saegertown Area Library
320 Broad Street
Saegertown, PA 16433

U.S. EPA Region III
6th Floor Docket Room
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-814-3157

Please call to schedule an appointment.